

Appl. No. 09/736,967  
Amd. Dated February 7, 2005  
Reply to Final Office Action of December 15, 2004

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated December 15, 2004, is respectfully requested.

The Applicants believe claims 1-9 and 11-34 are currently pending, though the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-33 are currently pending. It is noted that in the Amendment filed July 19, 2004, the Applicants cancelled claim 10 and added claim 34. At such, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicants are correct in their determination that claims 1-9 and 11-34 are pending, while the Examiner is incorrect in his determination that claims 1-33 are currently pending.

Claims 1-9 and 11-33 have been rejected. The disposition of claim 34, which was added in the Amendment filed July 19, 2004, is unknown. It is noted that the Examiner appears to have neglected to address claim 34 in the Final Office Action dated December 15, 2004. The Applicants would greatly appreciate it if the Examiner would clarify the disposition of claim 34, particularly since the Applicants believe that claim 34 contains allowable subject matter.

Claim 9 has been amended to add a comma to improve clarity.

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 14-16, 20-22, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weitz (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,682). Claims 3-8, 11-13, 17-19, 23-25, and 28-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Weitz (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,682) in view of Beever et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,356).

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*1. Claim 1 and its dependents*

Independent claim 1 recites a packet forwarding system which includes an interface system having a plurality of channels, a plurality of framing service engines, and a channel manager. The channel manager **dynamically assigns channels** to ones of the framing service engines. The use of dynamic channel assignments may allow data streams to receive preferential treatment over other data streams (Specification, on page 13 at lines 12-14).

The Examiner has argued that Weitz teaches of the packet forwarding system of claim 1. The Examiner has indicated, on page 2 of the Final Office Action dated December 15, 2004, that he equates the host processor/system resource of Weitz to a channel manager. However, **there is no teaching in Weitz that a host processor/system resource dynamically assigns channels to framing service engines**. In fact, Weitz does not appear to teach of any assignment of channels. Providing routing to multiple buffers/framers as taught by Weitz does not suggest dynamically assigning channels to framing service engines, and instead seems to only teach of sending data to multiple buffers/framers.

In the passages of Weitz which the Examiner alleges as teaching of the dynamic assignment of channels, it is noted that Weitz appears to teach of dynamically allocating services and communications resources based on availability at a given time (Weitz, from column 11 at line 55 to column 12 at line 11). Weitz states that a "private virtual channel" may be provided on the basis of a predetermined amount of data transmission per fixed time period, but does not teach that the private virtual channel dynamically provided or that the private virtual channel is dynamically assigned by a channel service manager. Rather, it is respectfully submitted that providing a channel on the basis of a predetermined amount of data transmission is a static allocation rather than a dynamic allocation. Further, the Examiner has equated a host processor/system resource that routes multiple buffers/framers to a channel manager that assigns channels to framing service engines, but that there is no indication in Weitz that the routing to multiple buffers/framers is dynamically assigned. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Weitz for at least the reasons set forth.

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Claims 2-8 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are, therefore, each believed to be allowable over claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Each of these dependent claims recite additional limitations which, when considered in light of claim 1, are believed to further distinguish the claimed invention over the art of record.

2. *Claim 26 and its dependents*

Claim 26 recites a packet forwarding system which includes means for receiving packets having a plurality of channels, a plurality of means for framing, and means for dynamically assigning channels to ones of the means for framing. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Weitz does not appear to teach of dynamically assigning channels or, more generally, assigning channels to means for framing. As such, claim 26 and its dependents are each believed to be allowable over the cited art for at least these reasons.

3. *Claims 15, 20, and 21 and their respective dependents*

Claims 15, 20, and 21 each recite the dynamic assignment of channels to framing service engines. As previously discussed, Weitz does not appear to teach of assigning channels to framing service engines. Providing routing to multiple buffer/framers as taught by Weitz (*e.g.*, at lines 39-43 of column 2), does not imply the assignment of channels or, more specifically, the dynamic assignment of channels. Therefore, claims 15, 20, and 21 are each believed to be allowable over Weitz for at least this reason.

Claims 16-19 each depend from independent claim 15, and claims 22-25 each depend from independent claim 21. Each of these dependent claims recites limitations which, when considered in light of the limitations of their respective base claims, are believed to further distinguish the claimed invention over the cited art.

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4. *Claim 9 and its dependents*

Claim 9 recites a packet processing system which includes an interface system and a framing system. The interface system terminates a plurality of point to point links, and the framing system supports a plurality of interfaces of the interface system in terminating the point to point links. The framing system includes a plurality of framing service engines and a channel manager that is arranged to actively allocate framing service engine ones of a plurality of point to point links requiring framing services.

In the Final Office Action dated December 15, 2004, the Examiner has argued that Weitz teaches of an interface system which terminates a plurality of point to point links. It is respectfully submitted that while Weitz appears to teach of cards which provide points of termination for a plurality of telephones, etc. (Weitz, from column 8 at line 59 to column 13 at line 8), Weitz does not appear to teach of an interface system which terminates a plurality of point to point links. Though Weitz does use the term "point-to-point" (Weitz, column 28 at line 65) as noted by the Examiner on page 6 of the Final Office Action dated December 15, 2004, the use of the term point-to-point by Weitz refers to establishing connections for video conferencing. Such connections are not taught by Weitz as requiring framing services or of being terminated by an interface system.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Weitz or any combination of the cited art of actively allocating point to point links which require framing services, or of a framing system that supports a plurality of network interfaces in terminating a plurality of point to point links. Further, there is no teaching of, or reasonable suggestion of, a channel manager that actively allocates framing service engine ones of point to point links in any combination of the cited art. Additionally, in the passage of Weitz that has been cited by the Examiner as teaching of points of termination, there is no teaching that points of termination include framing service engines. Therefore, claim 9 is believed to be allowable over Weitz for at least the reasons set forth.

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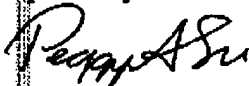
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Claims 11-14 and 34 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 9. Each of these dependent claims recites limitations which, when considered in light of the limitations of their respective base claims, are believed to further distinguish the claimed invention over the cited art. By way of example, claim 34 recites that a framing engine is arranged to frame data packets from higher layer protocols and that a deframing engine is arranged to deframe data streams from lower layer protocols. It is respectfully submitted that no combination of the cited art teaches of such a limitation. As such, claim 34 is believed to be allowable over the cited art for at least this additional reason.

#### Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8696.

Respectfully submitted,



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